Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is *Gladys*, and I am from New Haven. I am also part of the Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS).

I stand in support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I am 24 years old. I am a recent graduate of Central Connecticut State University. Above all, I am a woman. A woman who is still figuring out what it means to be a self-sufficient adult.

You see, I have suffered from Abnormal Uterine Bleeding (AUB) since I became a young woman at age 13. According to the Brigham and Women's Hospital, the average amount of blood loss during a period is 30 ml, equivalent to 2 tablespoons. It becomes abnormal if a woman loses more than 80ml during her period (like about 5 tablespoons). Since I was 13 years old, , I don't know what it's like to have a normal period. On a monthly basis, I lose so much blood. Often, the loss of blood could lead to blood transfusions and multiple hospital visits.

Sometimes I wondered, if I didn't have access to Husky, what would have happened to me? How could I have afforded the procedures, all the birth control pills I'm taking in order to regulate my menstruation?

Today, I am happy to be a woman and to embrace all the challenges that come with womanhood. All because Husky has given me the second chance to be hopeful.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Gladys Mwilelo